

Page 1

TOLEDO, OHIO  
BLADEE. 181,396  
S. 175,815  
MAY 15 1961

## Un-American Activities

THOSE UGLY stories now coming to light involving agents of the Central Intelligence Agency holding individuals prisoner at gunpoint in Guatemala and elsewhere only demean further the image this agency left by its bungling of the Cuban invasion.

The CIA admits it has a difficult and unlauded role to play on the global stage these days. Gathering intelligence or working furtively in guerrilla-type affairs involves all sorts of devious arrangements, associations, and actions that are, best left secret.

But what possible excuse can the CIA offer for using the same police state methods that are so characteristic of the very totalitarian movements against which we are supposedly waging this cold war? Is the CIA a state unto itself?

FIRST came reports of CIA agents holding many Cuban leaders incommunicado in Florida during the abortive invasion attempt. Then were more harrowing tales of CIA-run detention camps in Guatemala where 17 Cubans were held prisoner for 11 weeks. And now we have stories that the CIA is holding survivors of the invasion forces as prisoners on some remote Caribbean island.

If these high-handed acts have actually been perpetrated by the CIA — and no one has denied them — it is a deplorable turn of events. When the day comes that our intelligence agents start acting like secret police, throwing civilians and nationals of other countries into detention camps and holding them there by force, it will be time to rewrite the basic principles for which this country stands.

And incidentally, while all of this thoroughly un-American activity was going on, where was Rep. Francis Walter and his busy little investigating committee?